4: Goldstein D-5 (ca. 1930)1934
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147 *Skin-reaction.* The "reaction of the skin on the chest to the irritation caused by drawing over it a finger-nail with force"[10] was used as an adjunct in distinguishing full- from mixed-bloods. In healthy full-bloods the hyperaemia which constitutes the reaction was often slight, never over medium. At times the hyperaemia did not appear for about a minute after the initial irritation.

142 *Color of eyes.* The predominating eye color in both sexes was a medium brown. Doctor Hrdlička mentions a "moderate [145] dilution or loss of color with age" among the Sioux;[11] this occurs in the Comanche as well. The eyes of the children were generally a richer, deeper brown.

The color of the sclera in the adults was most frequently a dull- or yellowish-white, usually more or less bloodshot. The pigmentation may have been affected by the widespread trachoma.

Eye slant. In one-third of the males and nearly one-half of the females, the eyeslits were practically horizontal. Most of the remaining subjects had their outer canthi inclined upward (slightly to moderately), a few cases only occurring with a downward, slight to moderate, slant. The slant often appeared accentuated by a fairly frequent occurrence of narrow palpebral openings, or, among many with a moderate opening, by a habit of keeping the eyelids half shut. A wide palpebral opening was uncommon.

The mongolian fold was not noted in the adults; it was common in the younger children.

Color of hair. The hair of all full- and probable full-bloods, with one exception, was completely straight. One female's hair was somewhat wavy at the ends, although straight on top of the head. Felt by the fingers, the hair seemed usually of medium texture; a greater tendency toward coarseness occurred in the females than in the males.

[10] Hrdlička, A. Anthropology of the Sioux. Am. J. Phys. Anthrop., XVI, 130, 1931.
[11] Loc. cit., 130.

7: Richardson D-4 (no date) 1929
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each side. To the center was attached his buffalo hair plait, studded, at intervals of an inch or two, with enormous silver medallions, of an oval shape, and at least four inches in largest diameter. This plait swept the ground, and he seemed to set great store by it, as nothing would induce him to part with one of the ornaments. A rifle and bow, quiver and arrows, completed his costume and equipments; but being slender in figure and short in stature, his appearance was not at all imposing.

In contrast to Naroni other Indians are described:

"Straightfellow was very miserably clad, dirty and ragged, with a very forbidding countenance, indicative of cunning and cruelty." While the women impressed the writer as being "Ugly, crooked-legged, stoop-shouldered, squalid and dirty, with haggard and prematurely old countenances, their hair cropped close to their heads, and with scarce a rag to cover their nakedness.[11]

The wonderful physical stamina of the American Indian has often been commented upon by enthusiastic writers who have been wont to contrast their rugged physiques and powers of endurance with corresponding qualities in the softer and more effete civilized people. Doubtless nature, manifesting herself in the harsh environment of the plains country, mercilessly worked towards the elimination of weaker individuals so that those who survived to the age of maturity were generally sound. However that may be, it is certain that the Comanches had lost this physical superiority (if, indeed, they ever had it) by the time they had completed their southward migration. The fecundity of the women was low for a savage people, death of the mother at child-birth was not uncommon, and rheumatism caused much suffering. Diseases brought by white intruders, such as Cholera, Smallpox and syphilis swept away many of the savages.[12] For smallpox they had no remedy other than the sweat bath followed by the cold plunge.

11. W. B. Parker, **Notes Taken** during the Expedition Commanded by Captain R. B. Marcy, U. S. A., through **Unexplored Texas**, in the summer and Fall of 1854 (Philadelphia, 1856), 194.

12. The archives of the Indian office of the Republic of Texas, at Austin and of the United States Indian Office at Washington contain references to these diseases too numerous to cite. Also, the Bexar Archives and the Archive General, at the University of Texas and Mexico City respectively, indicate that during the Spanish period smallpox frequently ravaged the Comanche bands. For more general statements see, The Report of Alex B. Hasson, as cited and James Mooney, **Calendar History of the Kiowa Indians, Seventeenth Annual Report** of the Bureau of American Ethnology, I, 178, 289, 168, 172, 176, 274, 811, 177.

32: Gilles O,X-3 (1902-c.1910) 1974
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Oklahoma

after all, a twelve-year-old Indian boy has only a twelve-year-old Indian boy's head.

My personal feeling is—and I believe anyone who lived around the plains Indians at the turn of the century will agree—that the greatest miracle performed that afternoon was calling the Martny wives back from the hypnotic state of the death wail. This is a deliberate, self-induced mental condition; and when the women have been in it for a sufficient time, they become impervious to pain. They slash their breasts, bodies, and legs; and if the state continues long enough —say into the third day—it is climaxed by their whittling off a finger with their butcher knife. Generally it is the forefinger of the left hand. Women in this thralldom seem to have a high coagulatory content in their blood. Evidence of women's bleeding to death from self-inflicted wounds, when in this hypnotic state, is nil.

Possibly this blood property is a result of the women's heavy meat diet, or it may be a chemical change in the blood brought on by the severe hysterical state under which they are laboring. One thing old plainsmen are agreed on: Indian women are extremely dangerous when in the wail, and even their own menfolks give them a wide berth.

Because this state is deliberate and self-imposed, they resent being called back to normalcy. It is entered into to escape a sorrow—something they cannot face in their normal state. Perhaps their minds become as blank to sorrow as their bodies do to pain. In a way it is the kind of thinking a drinker uses, when he stultifies his senses with liquor to forget his inadequacy. Of this I am sure—I could never myself have the courage to call three wailing Comanche women back to sanity.

I think of three things happening that day that we can properly label phenomena. First is the dragging of this boy by a frantic horse, through the brush and timber of West Cache, for more than two hours, without the horse's ever once kicking or stepping directly on Albert's head or rib cage. The Bone-setter must have diagnosed these facts, and Dr. McLain must have overlooked them.

Phenomenon number two is a strange cowboy's riding through the country, chancing upon this isolated camp, and seeking food at that exact time. Number three is, of course, that this particular stray cowboy had the courage and willingness to take on a job shunned by a trained, educated doctor, and the skill to turn out a workmanlike job.